LANDFIRE Product Application Summary

GAP Analysis National Inventory of Vegetation and Land Use

Citation: US Geological Survey, Gap Analysis Program (GAP). August 2011. National Land Cover, Version 2.

Authors: U.S. Department of the Interior | U.S. Geological Survey

Application Location: Continental U.S. , Alaska and Hawai'i

Objectives

GAP mappers constructed a seamless representation of current vegetation across the continental United States and Alaska in order to create a seamless data set for the contiguous United States.

Project description

According to their report, the dataset combines the work of several different projects to create a seamless data set for the contiguous United States.

Data from four regional Gap Analysis Projects and the LANDFIRE project were combined to make this dataset. In areas of the county (central U.S., Northeast, Alaska) that have not yet been covered by a regional Gap Analysis Project, data from the LANDFIRE project was used.

- In the Northwestern United States (Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington and Wyoming) data in this map came from the Northwest Gap Analysis Project.
- In the Southwestern United States (Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah) data used in this map came from the Southwest Gap Analysis Project.
- The data for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia came from the Southeast Gap Analysis Project and the
- California data was generated by the updated California Gap land cover project.
- The Hawaii Gap Analysis project provided the data for Hawaii.

LANDFIRE products used
Spatial datasets

Value to the natural resource management/conservation community

- High spatial resolution of the data allows for mapping of rare and small patches of vegetation, which frequently are of importance to wildlife.

- Seamless nature of map allows for the calculation of summary statistics for any user-defined boundary.
- Data are available for viewing and download from GAP's Land Cover Viewer, which includes vegetation range maps and descriptions for each of the six-tiered levels of vegetation.
- Ecological Systems have been crosswalked to the National Vegetation Classification Standard. This tiered classification system allows users to select from six levels of thematic detail.
- This product allows data users to make conservation or land use planning decisions for the entire range of a habitat type across administrative boundaries.
- The spatial resolution of the data allows for mapping of rare and small patches of vegetation, which frequently are of importance to wildlife.
- The seamless nature of map allows for the calculation of summary statistics for any user-defined boundary.
- Similarities in the methods used by these projects made possible the combining of the data they derived into one seamless coverage.

Online resources

http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2013/3085/pdf/fs2013-3085.pdf
http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/gaplandcover/
http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/gaplandcover/viewer
http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/blog/gap-landcover-viewer-updated/
http://usnvc.org/data-standard/natural-vegetation-classification/